

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
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FOR AMBASSADOR PLEASE PASS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON EFFECT OF RADIATION AT
EMBASSY MOSCOW

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY KEYES BEECH APPEARED IN THE
SUNDAY, MAY 8, EDITION OF THE WASHINGTON POST (METRO
SECTION). MR. VAN GILDER WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS
BY COB, MONDAY, MAY 9, IF POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO RESPOND
TO EXPECTED PRESS INQUIRES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: EFFECT OF RADIATION AT U.S. EMBASSY WILL
BE STUDI--THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY IN BALTIMORE A \$250,000 CONTRACT TO DETERMINE
WHETHER THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN MICROWAVE RADIATION
BEAMED AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND AN APPARENTLY
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HIGH RATE OF CANCER AMONG AMERICANS SERVING THERE.

RICHARD MOOSE, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
MANAGEMENT, SAID THE COST OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT MIGHT
GO AS HIGH AS \$400,000 AND THAT IT WOULD BE A YEAR OR
MORE BEFORE THE RESULTS ARE KNOWN.

"BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT TO LOWER THE ANXIETY LEVEL AMONG MOSCOW EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND RESTORE CREDIBILITY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT BY FOREIGN SERVICE FAMILIES WHO FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED," SAID MOOSE, WHO VISITED MOSCOW SIX WEEKS AGO.

A SEPARATE, NONSCIENTIFIC STUDY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY AN EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHOSE WIFE DEVELOPED BREAST CANCER WHILE THEY WERE SERVING IN MOSCOW, MOOSE SAID.

THE SURVEY HAS DISCLOSED THAT 16 AMERICAN WOMEN WHO SERVED IN MOSCOW DEVELOPED BREAST CANCER, MOOSE SAID. TWO FORMER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS TO MOSCOW, CHARLES (CHIP) BOHLEN AND LLEWELLYN THOMPSON, DIED OF CANCER IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, NOW NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, TOLD REPORTERS IN MARCH, 1976, IN TOKYO THAT THE CANCER RATE AMONG AMERICANS IN THE MOSCOW EMBASSY WAS THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.

HE BLAMED SOVIET MICROWAVE RADIATION BEAMED AT THE EMBASSY FOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE ABNORMALLY HIGH CANCER RATE.

"BUT NONE OF THIS PROVES ANYTHING," MOOSE SAID. "WE JUST DON'T KNOW, BUT WE ARE DETERMINED TO FIND OUT."

CIA AND SECRET SERVICE SOURCES SAY THAT ABNORMALLY HIGH UNCLASSIFIED

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RADIATION AT THE MOSCOW EMBASSY WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN 1959.

BUT NOT UNTIL EARLY 1976 DID THE STORY LEAK OUT WHEN AMBASSADOR WALTER STOESSEL CALLED A STAFF MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT. STOESSEL, NOW AMBASSADOR TO WEST GERMANY, WAS REPORTED ;O BE SUFFERING FROM ANEMIA. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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